CHAPTER FOUR

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW

General Instructions to Monitoring Staff:

This review should be conducted "on-site" at the local program office through review of grantee policies and procedures, review of general files, inspection of actual transactions selected at random by the Reviewer, and finally, through interviews of key staff. The issues and concerns identified in this on-site review of the grantee's financial management activities should be noted on the <u>Financial Management Requirements -- Summary Page for Monitoring and Compliance Review found at the end of this chapter.</u>

A.	GENERAL INFORMATION			Date(s) of On-	-Site Review:
	antee/Project Name:ant #:			n Year:	
_	cal Staff Interviewed: me:	Title:	Location:	Date of Interview:	Telephone #/e-mail:
be beg	<mark>mmary (Chapter One)</mark> . Any Fi	inancial Management i ough interviews with th	ssues that emerged from the ne local project staff and/or of he monitoring visit the Revie	se refer to Section D of the General completion of the in-house review in-site file reviews. The specified isswer feels is appropriate. Response and/or Resolution	reflected in Chapter One should

Additional Instructions to Monitoring Staff:

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In accordance with 24 CFR 570.489(d)(2), the State of Maryland has chosen to adopt Federal requirements for expending and accounting for funds received under the State CDBG program. These financial administrative requirements (detailed in 24 CFR 85.20-85.26 for governmental grantees and 24 CFR 84.20-84.28 for non-profit subrecipients) affect almost all areas of a grantee's activities. These include the grantee's organizational structure, budgeting, expenses, record-keeping, and reporting. Accordingly, grantees must demonstrate a clear understanding of and compliance with 24 CFR 85 in a number of areas.

In general, the monitoring and compliance review seeks to determine whether the grantee is meeting the following financial management requirements:

- Costs incurred are in support of the activities identified in the approved CDBG application and Grant Agreement.
- Costs incurred are eligible and reasonable under the provisions of 24 CFR 85, the Maryland CDBG Program Plan, and Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.
- Funds are drawn down and disbursed in a timely fashion as required by 24 CFR 85 and Maryland's Request for Payment procedures.
- All appropriate program income has been credited.
- All CDBG transactions are recorded properly and are accounted for in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- The project is being managed in a manner that minimizes any opportunity for fraud, waste or mismanagement.
- Special financial limitations or requirements of the CDBG Grant Agreement have been met.

To monitor financial management compliance, DHCD staff will review the grantee's overall financial transactions flow, including appropriate registers, ledgers and journals. Source documentation, such as contracts, purchase orders, time sheets, vouchers, invoices, deposit slips and bank statements that support accounting entries, will also be reviewed. Key issues to be addressed include:

- Is there a system that has the capacity to identify and record CDBG revenues and expenditures?
- Is the system adequate for the purposes of tracking CDBG financial transactions?
- Are financial data consistent with the approved CDBG budget and the representation made on the grantee's Requests for Payment?

ON-SITE REVIEW

During the on-site monitoring activities, typically the Reviewer will:

Request the grantee to assemble all CDBG financial records and describe the overall process for recording and summarizing financial data (and ask the grantee to describe the use of each CDBG financial management component e.g. registers, journals, ledgers and the relationships among them).
Request the grantee to describe how CDBG financial files are maintained over time.
Ask for the CDBG chart of accounts. (This lists the names and the numbering system for the individual accounts that contain the basic information on the agency's financial transactions.)

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	Select a sample of cancelled checks, contracts, purchase orders, deposit slips and time sheets to track through the grantee's financial system from accounting entries back to the approved CDBG Grant Agreement. The sample size should be determined by the nature and complexity of the project. Although the approach will vary somewhat from project to project, the Reviewer should seek to sample at least three disbursements covering as many different types of transactions as possible – e.g., a payroll transaction, a purchase order, and a contractor payment, etc. (Obviously, if a project involves a single large transaction with CDBG funds, such as an acquisition, this may not be possible.)
	Review selected receipts and disbursements to ensure all transactions are recorded in a consistent manner (i.e., did the grantee process and record them the same way every time?)
	Review accounting entries to determine if receipts and disbursements were posted to journals and ledgers within a reasonable period of time, typically five working days, to keep records current.
	Spot check for mathematical errors.
	Make sure subsidiary records agree with general records.
	Ensure financial records are summarized and reconciled monthly and cash balances agree with bank statements. For grantees that submit Requests for Payment on an advance basis, review bank statements and accounting records to determine if Requests for Payment were limited to immediate cash needs. Identify any program income that may not have been reported on a Request for Payment.
	Check paid invoices to determine if they display proper local approvals.
	Check dates on appropriate obligations to ensure they were incurred after the CDBG project's approved Release of Funds (per Environmental Review requirements – see Chapter Two).
	Review payrolls to determine if hours charged to the CDBG project are supported by time sheets approved by a local official other than the person who completed the timesheet. Also ensure that payroll charges reflect the percentage of time devoted to CDBG activities.
	Review financial files to ensure they are complete and organized adequately (see Record-keeping Monitoring and Compliance Review).
	Review grantee procedures to safeguard blank checks.
	If the grantee has utilized an indirect cost rate, review the approved cost allocation plan to ensure the rate charged to the CDBG project is consistent with the approved rate.
	ues identified during the on-site review should be noted on the <u>Financial Management Requirements – Summary Page for Monitoring and liance Review</u> found at the end of this chapter of the Handbook.
	In addition to this chapter focusing on financial administration, the Handbook contains the several other sections that address the financial cions of grantees. These additional sections of the Handbook include:
	 Chapter Five – Procurement and Bonding; Chapter Eight – Property Management; and Chapter Fifteen – Audits.

C. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST	Inc Ge Pr Pr Consi	mentation licates eneral ogram actice stent with icies & ulations		action #1	Transaction #2 (Optional)		#2 #3		Comments and Description of Documentation or Issues:
BUDGET CONTROLS Citation: 24 CFR 85.20(b)(4): Requires that "actual expenditures and outlays must be compared with budgeted amounts for each grant or sub-grant. Financial information must be related to performance or productivity data, including the development of unit cost information whenever appropriate"									
Actual to Budget Comparisons: Does the grantee compare, on a regular, on-going basis, actual expenditures with budgeted amounts?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
2. Relationship to Performance and Cost Data: Does the grantee relate its financial information to performance or productivity data, as appropriate?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Does the grantee relate its financial information to unit cost data when appropriate?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Local Contribution: Has the grantee provided the local contribution pledged for the CDBG project?	Yes	No							
Amount of Contribution Pledged: \$ ACCOUNTING RECORDS									
Citation:24 CFR 85.20(b)(2): Grantees must maintain records which adequately identify the source and application of funds. These records must contain information pertaining to grant awards or authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays and expenditures, and income.									If "No", explain:
Availability of records: Were the accounting records available for review?	Yes	No							

	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT		Documentation Indicates General Program Practice		Transaction #1		Transaction #2		action	
	CHECKLIST	Pol	Consistent with Policies & Regulations				(Optional)		onal)	Comments and Description of Documentation or Issues:
2.	Adequacy of accounting records: Do the accounting records identify the source and application of funds? Do the accounting records contain information on the grant award, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays or expenditures, and income?	Yes		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
3.	Maintenance of accounting records: Does the grantee maintain its account records in a secure location with controlled access?	Yes	No							
4.	Posting and reconciliation procedures: Are journal entries properly approved, and adequately explained/supported in the accounting records?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
	Are postings and trial balances performed on a regular basis?	Yes	No							
	Typical frequency of postings:									
	Typical frequency of trial balances:									

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST	Documentation Indicates General Program Practice Consistent with Policies & Regulations		Transaction #1		Transaction #2		Transaction #3		
CHECKLIST					(Optional)		(Optional)		Comments and Description of Documentation or Issues:
SOURCE DOCUMENTATION Citation: 24 CFR 85.20(b)(6): Accounting records must be supported by source documentation, such as cancelled checks, paid bills, payrolls, time and attendance records, contract documents, etc. See also 24 CFR 85.20(a)(2) regarding the required capacity of the grantee to trace funds to expenditures to ensure that such funds have been used in compliance with applicable requirements.									
 Audit trail: Can CDBG-related cash disbursements for purchases of goods or services be traced from accounting entries to: 									
- Cancelled checks for payment?	Yes No	0	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
- Appropriate bills and invoices?	Yes No	o	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
 Approved purchase orders or other contracts for goods and services? 	Yes No	o	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
- Activities identified in the CDBG Grant Agreement?	Yes No	0	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
2. Full description: Does the grantee's source documentation show the item/service paid for, the amount of cost, the date of expenditure, and the basis/purpose of the cost?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
3. Documentation of personnel costs: Does the grantee's source documentation properly support personnel expenses with time and attendance records, payrolls, and cancelled checks? Output Documentation of personnel costs: Does the grantee's source documentation properly support personnel expenses with time and attendance records, payrolls, and cancelled checks?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	

	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST		Documentation Indicates General Program Practice Consistent with Policies & Regulations		Transaction #1 		Transaction #2 ——— (Optional)		ction	Comments and Description of Documentation or Issues:
/	ALLOWABLE COSTS									
t c ii	Citations: 24 CFR 85.20(b)(5) and 24 CFR 85.22: Indicate hat applicable OMB cost principles will be used to letermine allowable costs. These principles, spelled out in OMB Circular A-87, require that grantees prove that costs incurred under the CDBG grant are reasonable, cillowable and allocable.									
1	. Reasonability of costs: Does a review of a sample of transactions indicate that the grantee's costs are:									
-	Ordinary and necessary to the performance of the approved activity?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
-	Reflect sound business practices and prudent action?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
-	Are not deviations from established practices?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
2	Allowability: Does a review of grantee's project costs indicate that such costs:									
-	Are not prohibited under Federal, State or local laws?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
-	Have been authorized in the Grant Agreement (including the specification of approved activities, the term in which costs may be incurred, and any relevant special conditions)?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
-	Are consistently treated, and net of all applicable credits?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST	Documentation Indicates General Program Practice Consistent with Policies & Regulations		Transaction #1 		Transaction #2 ——— (Optional)		Transaction #3 (Optional)		Comments and Description of Documentation or Issues:
 Cost allocation: Does the grantee follow proper cost allocation procedures for its direct and indirect expenses, that is: 	Yes	No							
- Are direct costs allocated to the grant in proportion to the relative benefit derived from such expenses by the project (i.e., if only half of some supplies purchased are being used for grant-related activities, the grant will only be charged half the cost of such supplies)? [Note: The Reviewer should devote particular attention to how personnel and space costs are being allocated.]	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
 Are indirect costs charged to the grant according to an approved indirect cost allocation rate? 	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
CASH MANAGEMENT									
Citation: 24 CFR 85.20(b)(7): Requires the grantee to have procedures for minimizing the time elapsing between the transfer of funds from the U.S. Treasury and disbursement by grantees and sub-grantees, whenever advances of Federal funds are used.									
Cash advances: Does the grantee draw down funds on an advance basis?	Yes	No							
If "Yes", go to question #2.									
If "No", go to question #3.									
2. Disbursement procedures: Does the grantee have procedures in place that are consistently followed to ensure that Federal funds drawn down as an advance basis are disbursed within five business days of their receipt?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Note: Grantees that draw down through the reimbursement method automatically comply with five-day rule.									

	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST		Documentation Indicates General Program Practice Consistent with Policies & Regulations		Transaction #1 		Transaction #2 (Optional)		ction	Comments and Description of Documentation or Issues:
3.	Authorized signatories: Do signatures on the Request for Payment match the names of officials identified on the Authorized Signature Card?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
4.	Accurate information on draw down requests: Does documentation support the amounts being requested on the Requests for Payment?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
5.	Minimum draw down required: In each case reviewed, were requests limited to the minimum amounts needed?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
6.	Interest on funds: Are CDBG funds drawn down on an advance basis deposited directly into a non-interest bearing depository account?	Yes	No							
rei	If "No", does the grantee have procedures in place to ensure that the interest earned on such advances are returned to the State of Maryland? te: Grantees who draw down funds exclusively on a industry members are permitted to deposit such funds in an erest-bearing account and to keep such interest.	Yes	No							

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST	Documentation Indicates General Program Practice Consistent with	Transaction #1	Transaction #2	Transaction #3	
	Policies & Regulations		(Optional)	(Optional)	Comments and Description of Documentation or Issues:
Citation: 24 CFR 85.20(b)(3): Requires grantees to maintain "effective control and accountability" for all grant and sub-grant cash, real and personal property, and other assets. The regulations also require grantees to safeguard all such property and assets, and assure that they are used solely for authorized purposes. Internal controls consist of a combination of procedures, specified responsibilities, qualified personnel, and records which together create accountability in an organization's financial system and keep its cash, property and other assets safe. Because of the sweeping nature of the term "internal controls", the Reviewer needs to consider the responses in the earlier sections of this checklist in completing the questions in this section. [Note: In addition, since an assessment of internal controls also needs to examine the grantee's procedures for purchasing and safeguarding property, the Reviewer should examine the responses for Chapter Five — Procurement and					
Bonding, and for Chapter Eight – Property Management before completing this section.]					
1. Adequate specification of financial procedures: Does the grantee have a written chart of accounts, an accounting manual describing procedures for authorizing and/or recording financial transactions, and/or some other method to ensure that proper financial procedures are consistently followed and grant resources are only used for authorized purposes?	Yes No				
2. Adequate specification of duties: Does the grantee have an organizational chart showing titles and lines of authority for all individuals approving or recording financial and other transactions, as well as job descriptions detailing the responsibilities of key financial employees?	Yes No				

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST	Documentation Indicates General Program Practice Consistent with Policies & Regulations	Transaction #1	Transaction #2 (Optional)	Transaction #3 (Optional)	Comments and Description of Documentation or Issues:
3. Separation of duties: Is there adequate separation of duties for all financial transactions (i.e., the grantee has a system that involves at least two people for authorizing and recording financial transactions to provide for a system of checks and balances)?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	
4. Hiring policies: Do the grantee's hiring policies ensure that the qualifications of the financial staff are equal to their job responsibilities?	Yes No				
5. Access controls: Does the grantee maintain adequate control of access to accounting records, blank forms, checkbooks, and confidential records?	Yes No				
6. Comparison of financial records to actual assets and liabilities: Does the grantee have an adequate system of periodically checking financial records against actual assets and liabilities to ensure that the financial records are accurate, to correct errors in a timely way, and to protect resources against fraud or misuse of assets?	Yes No				
FINANCIAL REPORTING Citation: 24 CFR 85.20 (a)(1) and (b)(1): Require the grantee to have sufficient financial management systems to permit preparation of required reports, and to ensure that those reports provide accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the grantee's financial activities and status. 1. Has the grantee submitted requested financial reports in a timely manner?	Yes No				
Does a review of these reports show that they provide accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the grantee's financial activities and status?	Yes No				

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST	Documentation Indicates General Program Practice Consistent with Policies & Regulations		Transaction #1	Transaction #2(Optional)	Transaction #3 (Optional)	Comments and Description of Documentation or Issues:
PROGRAM INCOME	Regula	1110115				Documentation of issues.
Citations: 24 CFR 570.489(e) and 24 CFR 85.25: Set the rules for program income, and require that a grantee use any program income generated by its activities, prior to requesting additional funds "unless another alternative is specified by the authorizing agency."						
 Generation of program income: Is the grantee undertaking activities generating, or likely to result in, program income? 	Yes	No				
If "Yes", list activities:						
Will the program income generated exceed the \$25,000 "annual program year threshold"?	Yes	No				
[Note: If a grantee and its subrecipients generate \$25,000 or less in a single program year, none of the funds is considered program income. If the grantee and its subrecipients generate more than \$25,000, all of the funds are considered program income.]						
2. Program Income Plan: Does the grantee have a DHCD-approved plan for the retention and re-use of program income?	Yes	No				
If "Yes", is the grantee adhering to that plan in its re-use of program income (for example, the program income is only being used for the activities specified in the plan)?	Yes	No				
If "No", has the grantee returned to the State of Maryland any program income that it has received and that exceeds the "threshold"?	Yes	No				

	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST	Documentation Indicates General Program Practice Consistent with Policies & Regulations		Transaction #1 	Transaction #2 (Optional)	Transaction #3 (Optional)	Comments and Description of Documentation or Issues:
3.	Use of program income first: In cases where the grantee has an approved program income plan, do the grantee's accounting records confirm that program income is used for the specified activities before additional draw downs of grant funds are made for those same activities?	Yes	No				
4.	Reporting of program income: Based on a review of bank statements or other documents, has the grantee consistently and accurately recorded the receipt of program income in its accounting records,and reported on program income on its Requests for Payment submitted to DHCD and other financial reports?	Yes	No				
5.	Disposition of program income: Will the grantee have program income on hand at the end of the grant term? If "Yes":	Yes	No				
-	If the grantee <i>will</i> be allowed to continue to use the program income after the end of the grant term, are there sufficient controls in place to ensure that these funds will continue to be used in conformance with the CDBG requirements?	Yes	No				
-	If the grantee will <i>not</i> be allowed to continue to use the program income after the end of the grant term, have provisions been made for the grantee to return these funds to the State of Maryland?	Yes	No				

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

SUMMARY PAGE FOR MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW

Instructions to Monitoring Staff:

In the space below, please note any issues arising from the review. For any financial management concerns or findings identified during the review, provide amplification as necessary, and specify corrective actions the grantee must take to resolve the issue(s). Also describe the nature of any technical assistance provided during the review. List any follow-up action for the DHCD staff and/or the grantee, and the dates by which such actions must be taken.

Issues/Concerns/Findings (and Relevant Citations):		Necessary Action Steps and/or Resolution (and Deadlines):				
Based on the evidence reviewed, has the grantee complied with appropriate financial management requirements? Yes No						
Maryland DHCD Staff Conducting Review:						
Date Review Completed:						